

THE

SANDMAN ♦ UNIVERSE

Lucifer



11

DC
VERTIGO

NATURE
READERS

Dan Watters
Sebastian Fiumara
Leomacs
Dave McCaig

THERE IS AN
OCEAN OF
NOTHING AT THE
BOTTOM OF
EVERYTHING.

THIS IS WHERE
THE WORLD WAS
DROWNED,
BEFORE BRAHMA
ROSE IT FROM
THE DEPTHS.

ABOVE, THERE ARE
SEVEN REALMS OF
UNDERWORLD. OF
PUNISHMENT AND
REWARD. OF
LAUGHTER AND
SCREAM.

THIS IS
WHERE
LUCIFER NOW
SINKS.

HERE, BEYOND
THE REACH OF
YAHWEH. BELOW
ALL THE WORLD
THAT IS.

DOWN HERE,
THERE IS
NONE OF
THAT.

PERHAPS HERE
HE COULD STAY,
BEYOND HIS
FATHER'S PLAN.

PERHAPS
HERE HE
COULD BATHE
IN NOTHING
FOREVER.

PERHAPS HE
COULD STOP
BEING LUCIFER
ALTOGETHER...



NO.



NEVER



THAT.

WHATEVER
ELSE I MAY BE,
I AM ALWAYS
LUCIFER.



HELLO,
LUCIFER.

YAMA.



YOU ARE
VERY FAR FROM
HOME HERE... YOU
ARE SOMETHING
IN THE
NOTHING.

DID
MOHINI SEND
YOU?



"...SHE CAN
BE SO CRUEL
TO OUR ILK."



SO.

YOU
ARE THE
SON OF THE
ARCHANGEL
LUCIFER.

I am
the son of
the devil
Lucifer.

DID YOU NOT
SEE HIM STAND
BEFORE YOU AS
AN ANGEL?

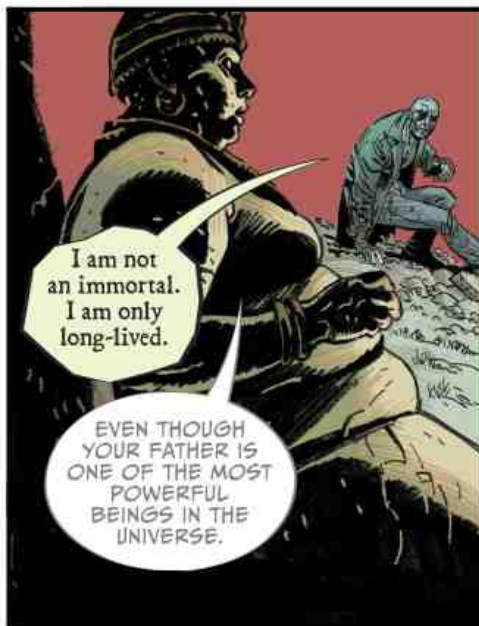
And as
a beast.



SO FOR ALL
HIS POWER
AND HISTORY,
HE IS LIKE
ANY OTHER
MAN.

JYESTHA.
IT IS UNLIKE
YOU TO ENTER
ANY OF THE
WORLDS.

ONE CAN'T
HELP BUT BE
DRAWN TO THE
MISERY OF AN
IMMORTAL.



I am not
an immortal.
I am only
long-lived.

EVEN THOUGH
YOUR FATHER IS
ONE OF THE MOST
POWERFUL
BEINGS IN THE
UNIVERSE.



THERE IS A POSSIBLE
WORLD, YOU KNOW,
WHERE THIS IS NOT THE
CASE. WHERE YOU ARE
PERFECT--ANGELIC
AND UNTAINTED. IT IS
WITHIN YOU.

BEFORE HE
ENTERED THE PIT,
ALL THE AVATARS
OF YOUR FATHER
STOOD BEFORE
YOU. DO YOU
THINK YOU DO
NOT HAVE THE
SAME?



THE THINGS
YOU HAVE BEEN
AND COULD BE
STAND AT YOUR
SHOULDERS. YOU
NEED ONLY LOOK
OVER THEM.



DO YOU
FEEL HIM
STANDING THERE?
THE PERFECTED
YOU, WITH ANGEL
WING AND
JOYOUS
HEART?

DO NOT TEASE
THE BOY WITH
SUCH THINGS,
MOHINI.

AH, LORD
YAMA, YOU ARE
RETURNED.

YES.
LUCIFER
AND I HAVE
SPOKEN.

THANK YOU FOR
BRINGING ME BACK,
LUCIFER. IT IS EASY TO
LOSE ONESELF IN THE
OCEAN OF GARBHODAKA.
AND I HAVE MUCH TO
ATTEND TO.

YOU
ARE MOST
WELCOME,
LORD
YAMA.

COME ALONG,
CALIBAN. WE'RE
LEAVING.

What?

But
Mother's
death still
looms.

YES,
AND THIS
UNDERWORLD
WILL NOT SUIT
HER. LORD YAMA
AND I HAVE
DISCUSSED
IT.

I WILL
LEAD YOU OUT.
PLEASE, COME
THIS WAY.



YOU HAVE DONE US A SERVICE, LUCIFER. YOU MAY KEEP THOSE WINGS AS A SIGN OF OUR GRATITUDE.

I SAWED MY WINGS OFF ONCE, LORD VISHNU...



I WOULD RATHER NOT DO IT AGAIN.

NONETHELESS, WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT.

YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU? HOW ABOUT THAT.



Wait, Father--

GOODBYE, LORD VISHNU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY.



Wait--

COME ON, CALIBAN. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. MORE UNDERWORLDS AWAIT.

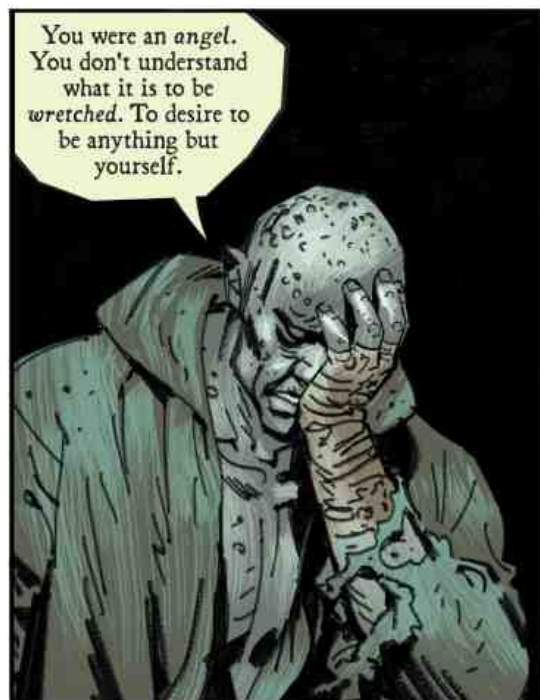
WHERE SHALL WE TRY NEXT? HADES? MICTLAN?



PERHAPS NIFLHEIM OR JAHANNAM.



Stop!





I do not wish to see her yet. Return me instead to the church in Milan.

WHY WOULD YOU--
ETC. VERY WELL...



"...WHATEVER YOU WISH."



Are you there, Raguel?



I AM IN ALL PLACES ON HIS EARTH. I AM HIS RIGHT HAND.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED OF LUCIFER'S PLAN?



Take me there again. To the Silver City. I wish to see it.



YOU DO NOT GIVE ORDERS TO ARCHANGELS, DEMON.

HUSH, DIRI...





IT IS GOOD FOR HIM TO BE REMINDED OF WHAT HIS **REWARD** WILL BE FOR STANDING AGAINST LUCIFER'S EVIL.

It is perfection. It is so beautiful.



YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE IT BE RUBBLE. WHAT IS HIS PLAN?



He has none. None against Heaven. He cares only for my mother.

And himself.



HE LIES. LUCIFER WANTS US HUUURTING.

YES. THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, CALIBAN!

LUCIFER HAS **HIDDEN** THE WITCH SYCORAX FROM ME. THEY PLOT TOGETHER. IF YOU CANNOT DISCOVER YOUR FATHER'S PLAN...



I WILL **WRING** IT FROM HIM MYSELF.

"TELL ME AGAIN,
SHOVEL--ON PAIN
OF BURNING."



...TELL ME WHO
HANGED THOSE
TWO OUTSIDE. WHO
BROUGHT HEAVEN
DOWN ON OUR
HEADS?

HUUURTING
HUUUUURTING...



I-IT WAS A WITCH-HUNTER.
HE SAID THAT HE WAS SENT
TO DO HEAVEN'S BIDDING.
HE AMBUSHED THE DEMON
AND THE WITCH...

BUT HE KNEW HE
WAS OUTNUMBERED
AND FLED ON A
BOAT OUT INTO
THE OCEAN.



THIS DOESN'T
SMELL RIGHT TO
ME, SYCORAX. HOW
COULD A MORTAL
MAN HAVE FOUND
THIS PLACE?



PERHAPS
YOU HAVE A
TRAITOR IN
YOUR MIDST.









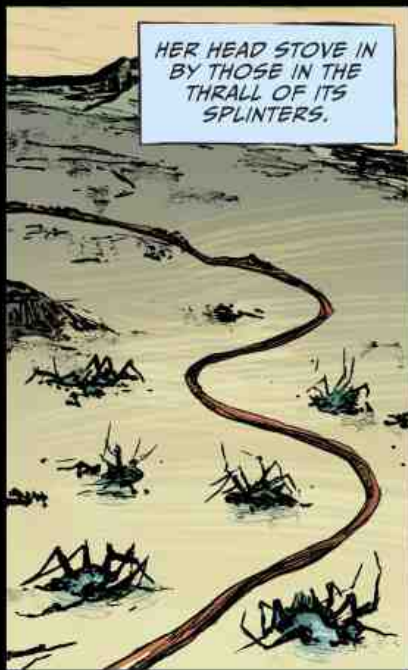
"BEFORE I RETURN
TO DUST AT THE
END OF THIS FINAL
DAY, I SHALL MAKE
MY RAGE KNOWN."



THE MAZIKEEN WAS
MURDERED WITH A
SHOVEL WROUGHT
FROM THE WOOD
OF HELL'S SUICIDE
FOREST.



HER HEAD STOVE IN
BY THOSE IN THE
THRALL OF ITS
SPLINTERS.



SHE IS
BETTER
NOW.



MOSTLY.

BLUHD.

KRCH

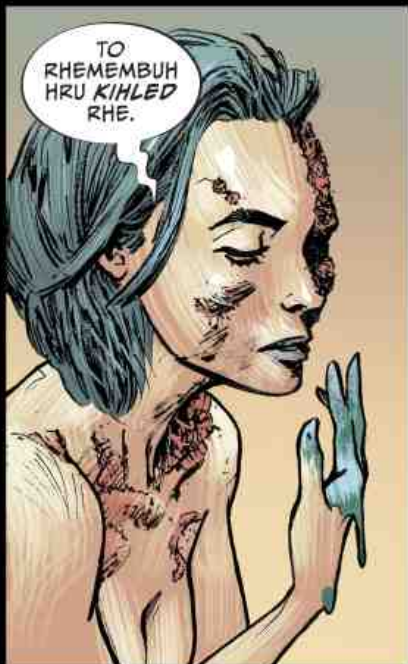


HAI GNEED
MOAH BLUHD.

TO
GHROW. TO...
RHEMEM-
BUH.



TO
RHEMEMBUH
HRU KIHLED
RHE.



BLUHD
RHASH
BHWROUGHT
RHE BACK.



BHUT RHISH
ISH NOH
ENOUGH.







IS THIS TRULY HIS RAGE, RAGUEL? OR YOUR OWN?

W-WHAT IS THIS?

A MODICUM OF ABYSS. A SOUVENIR FROM NARAKA. I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT.

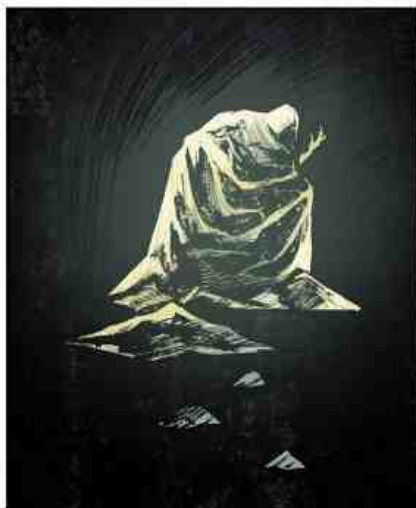


IT REMINDS ME OF--



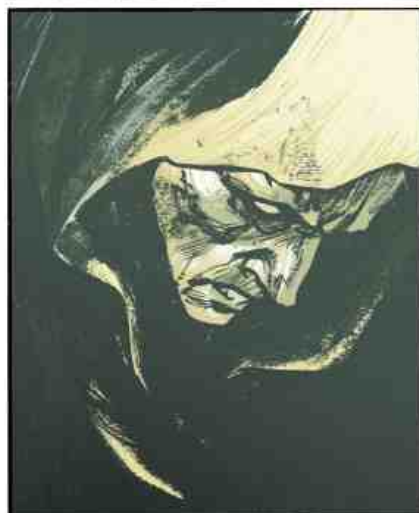
OF HOW THINGS USED TO BE.

WHEN YOU WERE NAUGHT BUT AN ASPECT OF YAHWEH'S WILL. BEFORE THE WORLD SULLIED YOU WITH ALL ITS SPECIFICITY AND DEFINITION.



WITHOUT PERVERSION, ALL IS ONE. ALL IS UNIFIED IN NOTHINGNESS.

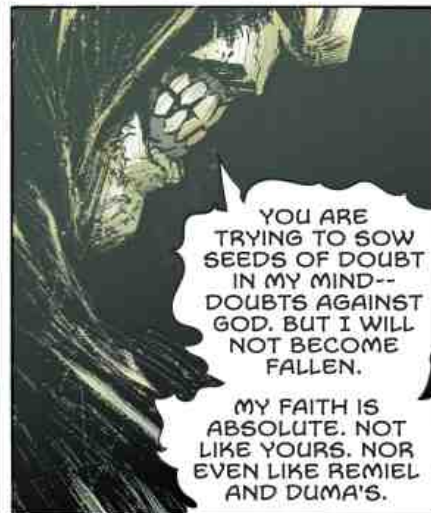
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT PERHAPS THAT'S WHY HE MADE ME THE WAY I AM? HE NEEDED SHADOW TO GIVE HIS LIGHT DEFINITION.



WITHOUT ELEMENTS OF EACH OTHER, PERFECT LIGHT AND PERFECT DARKNESS ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

BLISS IS THE SAME THING AS NONEXISTENCE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU SEEK, RAGUEL. YOU YEARN FOR THE NOTHINGNESS THAT ONCE WAS ALL-NESS.



YOU ARE TRYING TO SOW SEEDS OF DOUBT IN MY MIND-- DOUBTS AGAINST GOD. BUT I WILL NOT BECOME FALLEN.

MY FAITH IS ABSOLUTE. NOT LIKE YOURS. NOR EVEN LIKE REMIEL AND DUMA'S.



PERHAPS YOU HAVE TOO MUCH FAITH, RAGUEL.

I'M NOT A FOOL. I KNOW YOU ATTEMPTED TO HAVE MY SON BETRAY ME.



CALIBAN FOUND NO THREAT FOR THERE WASN'T ONE. I AM WEAKENED, MY REPUTATION IN TATTERS. I HAVE NO TIME FOR WARS.

IF SOMEONE HAS TOLD YOU I SOUGHT ONE WITH HEAVEN...

"...THEY HAVE
LIED TO YOU."

HUUURTING...

What
did you
say?

YOU ARE
HUUURTING.
FOR YOU SEEK
TO BECOME
ONE OF *US*,
DON'T YOU,
BEAST?

AND YOU
KNOW, DEEP
DOWN, THAT'S
NEVER
POSSIBLE.

I...I am
of angel's
blood.

YOU ARE A
PERVERSION OF
NATURE. LUCIFER
WAS NO LONGER
AN ANGEL BY THE
TIME HE Sired
YOU.

YOUR VERY
EXISTENCE IS
AGAINST GOD'S
WILL. IF YOU TRULY
WISHED TO FOLLOW
HIS PATH, YOU
WOULD END YOUR
OWN LIFE.

SNAP YOUR
NECK WITH A
ROPE, OR CARVE
YOUR HEART
FROM YOUR
CHEST.

You...don't
speak like an
angel.



RAGUEL
CAN'T SEE
WHERE YOU
CAME FROM.
BUT I
CAN.

LOOK AT
YOUR KINGDOM
CALIBAN. A SQUARE
MILE OF DIRT THAT
LUCIFER TRAPPED YOU
ON SO HE NEVER HAD
TO LOOK ON YOUR
FOUL VISAGE.

YOU SICKEN
HIM, AND ALL
YOU'VE MET
SINCE.



How can
you see that
place? You
aren't supposed
to be able to
see it!

I'VE
LEARNED SO
MANY TAUTHS
SINCE I
RECEIVED THIS
SPLINTER.



SO MUCH ABOUT
HUUUURTIING.

YOU
MUST KILL
YOURSELF!



NOBODY
LOVES
YOU!



NO
ONE EVER
SHALL!



HURRAH--





PERHAPS I HAVE BEEN...
OVERZEALOUS.
THINGS
HAVE BECOME...
COMPLICATED.

SOUNDS IT.
HAVE YOU ANY
GOLD COINS ON
YOU? I FORGOT TO
BRING LOOSE
CHANGE FOR THE
FERRYMAN.



YOU WERE
RIGHT IN ONE
THING YOU SAID.
IT IS **PAINFUL**...
SOMETIMES TO
SERVE HIM. TO
PERFORM TASKS
OF VENGEANCE
AND FURY.



BUT IT
MAKES MY
SACRIFICE
TRUE,
DOES IT
NOT?

IT
MAKES
MY SERVICE
WORTHY. I
WILL NOT
QUESTION
IT.

PERHAPS
ONE DAY, HE
WILL ALLOW
IT TO
END...



"AND WHEN THIS
UNIVERSE IS OVER,
YOU CAN RETURN TO
THAT VOID OF
NOTHINGNESS THAT
IS ALLNESS."



DIRI,
FAVORED
CHERUB.
ATTEND
TO ME.



WHERE
ARE
YOU?









PUHHUPS
THEIH ISH
ENOUGH HEEYUH
TO GRO
AROUHD.

To Be Continued

Lucifer

"MEDITATIONS ON NOTHING AT ALL"

Written by DAN WATTERS

Art by SEBASTIAN FIUMARA AND LEOMACS

Colors by DAVE MCCAIG

Letters by STEVE WANDS

Cover by TIFFANY TURRILL

EDITED BY AMEDEO TURTURRO

ASSISTANT EDITOR MAGGIE HOWELL

EXECUTIVE EDITOR MARK DOYLE

LUCIFER based on characters created by Neil Gaiman, Sam Kieth, and Mike Dringenberg

Curated for THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE by Neil Gaiman



NEXT ISSUE: AND HE SAID STAY THY HAND

Lucifer travels the universe, an ancient deity's temple is torn asunder, and Raguel makes a very difficult decision.

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

